From: Bruce Horn
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 6:18pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I believe that the proposed antitrust settlement with Microsoft is tremendously inadequate. Microsoft has been found guilty of extremely serious violations of the Sherman Antitrust Act, and the proposed settlement will just encourage further violations.

I have worked in the computer industry for 25 years, and have held positions at Xerox PARC and Apple Computer, among other companies. In my opinion Microsoft's behavior has held back computing progress and has cost the entire country hundreds billions of dollars in lost productivity. Personally I have witnessed Microsoft's repeated theft of Apple's intellectual property, for which they escaped punishment.

The proposed settlement would preserve Microsoft's monopoly, would not restore competition, and at the same time would allow Microsoft to keep its ill-gotten gains from the past decade of monopolistic behavior. In addition, it would encourage and help Microsoft to establish yet another monopoly in the Internet space.

Perhaps most chilling is Microsoft's plan to capture essential personal and private information on their proprietary databases, and force you to run all on-line transactions through them. They also plan to monitor everyone's computing activities and charge for them on a rental basis. This must not happen.

There must be alternatives available that allow people to use whatever operating system they wish, and whatever applications they wish, on whatever platform they wish. This includes running Microsoft applications on non-Windows platforms. Any behavior by Microsoft to attempt to control the Internet space must be prohibited.

The proposed settlement is seriously flawed and must not be enacted.

Sincerely,

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